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Orally Given Hypoglycemic Drugs and Cardiovascular Disease

I feel that we should concede that there is perhaps a relationship between the use of orally given hypoglycemic drugs and cardiovascular disease . . . If we have conceded that there is a possibility of a problem inherent in the use of the oral agents, then I think we are on poor grounds to administer orally given hypoglycemic drugs to these patients . . . There is a problem in giving these patients insulin. One has to be very careful in its administration, simply because one does not want hypoglycemia to occur in patients who are being given insulin or who are receiving any form of therapy. The reason for this is that there is an outpouring of epinephrine in these patients as a response to their hypoglycemic state and even myocardial infarction has been seen on occasion, so one must be very careful in this group of patients.

-STANLEY N. COHEN, MD, Philadelphia Extracted from Audio-Digest Internal Medicine, Vol. 23, No. 6, in the Audio-Digest Foundation's subscription series of taperecorded programs. For subscription information: 1930 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90057.